

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EA-10 ACDA-12 IO-13 /094 W

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R 031330Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0260

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 0374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MA NK US

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREANS STRIKE AGAIN

REF: 77 ANT 2133

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST. OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN
PUBLISHED ON MARCH 3 FIRST INSTALMENT OF LENGTHY FEBRUARY 1
NORTH KOREAN STATEMENT ON KOREAN REUNIFICATION, ACCUSING US
IN HARSH TERMS OF DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO PERPETUATE DIVISION
OF KOREA. ACTION REQUEST: REQUEST DEPARTMENT FORWARD
TELEGRAPHICALLY AN APPROPRIATE USG POLICY DOCUMENT IN FRENCH
WHICH I CAN SEND TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH
DEMAND THAT IT BE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT. IF NO SUCH DOCUMENT
EXISTS IN FRENCH I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BRIEF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
STATEMENT WHICH WE CAN TRANSLATE OURSELVES FOR SAME PURPOSE.
I ALSO REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD LOW-KEY
PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH TO DISTRIBUTE THIS DOCUMENT, AND TO
REPLY TO ANY QUESTIONS. I HAVE NOT YET MADE FIRM DECISION THAT
SUCH A CONFERENCE IS DESIRABLE BUT WOULD APPRECIATE AUTHORIZATION
TO PROCEED IN CASE FURTHER REFLECTION LEADS ME TO CONCLUDE THAT
THIS WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO EXPLOIT THIS INCIDENT.
END SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST.

2. I AM NOT FORWARDING DOCUMENT, AS IT IS EVIDENTLY A STATEMENT
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ISSUED IN PYONGYANG FOR WORLDWIDE USE BY NORTH KOREAN
REPRESENTATIVES AND, I ASSUME, ALREADY AVAILABLE IN
DEPARTMENT. IT WAS ORIGINALLY DISTRIBUTED TO ANTANANARIVO PRESS
BY NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY
17. HOWEVER, THE MEDIA PLAY HE RECEIVED ON THAT OCCASION
AND THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DOCUMENT AS WRITTEN UP BY THE
ATTENDING JOURNALISTS WERE NOT OFFENSIVE. BUT I CONSIDER THE

FULL DOCUMENT TO BE SO, ESPECIALLY THE FIRST PART PUBLISHED YES-
TERDAY WHICH CONSISTS MOST OF A DESCRIPTION OF US POLICY
TOWARD KOREA AS SEEN BY NORTH KOREA, SET FORTH IN HARSH TERMS
AND CONTAINING MANY FALSEHOODS.

3. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO MORE ON THIS OCCASION THAN LODGE
A PROTEST, AS HAS BEEN OUR CUSTOM IN THE PAST (REFTEL), AND
I WOULD LIKE TO DEMAND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR AN AMERICAN STATEMENT
ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE BULLETIN'S READERSHIP SHOULD HAVE
THE BENEFIT AND CONSIDERATION OF BEING ABLE TO READ ABOUT
US POLICY AS SET FORTH BY THE USG. THIS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE
THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS WE HAVE HAD COMPLETELY NEGATIVE
RESULTS IN THE PAST FROM OUR EFFORTS TO GET ANYTHING INTO THE
OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN BY APPROACHING ITS DIRECTOR.

4. I ALSO THINK THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF OUR STATEMENT AT A
PRESS CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT. THIS COULD BE
DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRODUCE A FAVORABLE COMPARISON BETWEEN
OUR VIEWS AND BEHAVIOR AND THOSE OF THE KOREANS. I BELIEVE NORTH
KOREAN INVECTIVE IS ALREADY LARGELY SEEN FOR WHAT IT IS,
BUT THAT A CIVIL AND REASONED BUT FIRM REPLY ON OUR PART WOULD
HELP CONFIRM ITS PLEMICAL NATURE FOR THE READING PUBLIC AND
TV VIEWERS. WHAT BETTER REASON TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE THAN
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A US SPOKESMAN SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT
AS TO WHAT AMERICAN POLICY REALLY IS? FURTHERMORE, I BELIEVE
THAT PART OF ANTANARIVO ELITE WHICH IS FAVORABLE TO US, AND
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EVEN OTHERS LESS FAVORABLY INCLINED, WOULD WELCOOME OUR
SURFACING TO DISPUTE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S CONTINUING
CALUMNY. HE HAS BEEN RIDING PRETTY HIGH FOR THE PAST YEAR
AND I THINK THERE IS RESENTMENT AT HIS HEAVY-HANDEDNESS AND THE
AMOUNT OF DEFERENCE WHICH HE IS GIVEN BY MALAGASY GOVERNMENT.
HE APPARENTLY DOES NOT HESITATE TO CALL UP AND REPROACH NEWS-
PAPERS WHO PRINT ANYTHING UNCRITICAL ABOUT SOUTH KOREA, AND
RECENTLY AN ISSUE OF THE MALAGASY QUARTERLY, "COURIER
DIPLOMATIQUE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN," WAS HELD OFF THE NEWSSTANDS BY
GOVERNMENT CENSORS BECAUSE IT REPORTED, IN COMMENTING UPON
ARTICLE ON NORTH KOREA, THAT THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
HAD DECLINED A REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW. BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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SAS ID: 3134956
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREANS STRIKE AGAIN
TAGS: PBOR, PROP, MA, KN, US, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f3c3bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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